Amusements To-Day.

American Institute - F Chickering Latt-Convert. FP M. Cosmopol ton Theatre-Streeted Herses. SP, M. Cosmopol ion I bentres Educated Horses, If. I Buly's Theories Dillar and Sense, IdEP, M. Grand Opera Houses—the White Slave, If. M. Madison Square Theories—The Reish, IP. M. How Park, Theories—the Strangists, IP. M. Rible's Gorden—Exceller, IP. M. Penple's Theories—Day Cockett, IP. M. San Francisco Min terbs IP. M. San Francisco Min terte S P. M.
Spencer's Palace Mindle Hall-Variety. 2 and 3 P. M.
Star Theatre—The Lynn Mall. 3 P. M.
Standard theatre—It its Besta S P. M.
Theatre Comique—Cordelies Apprations. 2 and 5 P. M.
Thoulas Theatre—Bettstradent. 3 P. M.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Variety. 2 and 5 P. M.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Variety. 2 and 5 P. M. Union Square ! heatre-Cricket on the Hearth. Windsor Theat o The Parting Regiment, & P. M. We took's theater Water of P. M.

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Bd Av. Pheatre—Irsh Aristomary SP, M. Bth Av. Theatre—Liest Released the Guards, SP, M. S4th St. Theatre—Polos. SP, M.

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Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN. issucd to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.

The Renson.

They don't understand why THE SUN advocates the nomination of Mr. HOLMAN. It ta a puzzle to politicians, and a mystery to journalists; and the conclusion is apt to be that our motive is to kill off the preten sions of avowed candidates in order at the right moment to throw HOLMAN aside and openly promote the ambition of some supposed aspirant whose name and hopes are now cunningly kept secret. In this vein the Monroe Express of East Stroudsburg explains the problem. The scheme, as it informs the curious, is to prevent the nomination of Mr. MacDonald; and then, when the time has come, to procure the nomination of Mr. RANDALL, leaving Mr. HOLMAN at home, where, as they tell us-and we be Heve it, too-he prefers to remain.

It is not worth while, perhaps, to correct these imaginative expositions of our political purposes, so far as the expounders themselves are concerned; but we do not wish to be misunderstood by the public. We repeat. then, that we are not laboring to prevent the nomination of anybody who stands a chance of being nominated, and least of all of Mr MACDONALD. He is a worthy and capable man, and deserves well of his party; but so far as he is concerned, the question of the Democratic nomination is decided, and the decision cannot be reviewed.

The elections of last Tuesday put Mr. MAC-DONALD entirely out of the question, because they establish the certainty that, if he is nominated, he cannot be elected. No man can be elected President in 1884 on the Democratic side, who does not carry the State of New York, Mr. MacDonald cannot carry the State of New York; and it is not worth while to consider any further the probabilities of his case. It is settled, and the Democratic National Convention will necessarily be governed by that settlement.

The course we have taken respecting Mr. HOLMAN has been dictated by the consideration that he can carry the State of New York and can be elected—nay, that if he is nominated he will surely accomplish this great result. In all the requirements of a Democratic candidate in this crisis, he owers far above all the ordin politicians and statesmen. His moral qualities make him a man apart from the crowd of aspirants for the Presidency. Indeed, he is not an aspirant at all. He does not seek the office. He is not looking about the country to discover where delegates can be chosen who will talk for him and vote for him. He is not that sort of a man; but, if he is nominated, the country will rally around him as it has never railled around a candidate in recent times.

We are for Holman because he can be elected, and because, when elected, he will reform the Government. That is the whole of the mystery.

The Pension King.

The District Attorney and other officials at Washington are just now making a great parade of zeal in locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen. The fact has been notorious for years that a Ring of attorneys and agents at the capital was engaged in prosecuting fraudulent pension claims and in swindling soldiers and their widows and children by false pretences. Mr. BENTLEY, late Commissioner of Pen-

sions, was driven from office by the influence of this Ring because of his efforts to expose and to defeat its frauds. He used to esti mate that the frauds aggregated between ten and twenty per cont. of the whole sum annually paid out for pensions.

The principals in this Ring of robbers have agencies scattered all over the country. They have amassed large fortunes by an organized system of deception. Their business has been carried on in Washington under the eyes of the pension officers, and, as has been repeatedly shown, by collusion with clerks and others in that service.

Emboldened by immunity and fortified by wealth, the swindlers have recently become so reckless in their methods as to disregard the common means of defence against detection in their crimes. Numbers of their dupes have sent proofs of the guilt of the ringsters to Washington in shape that could not be ignored.

This is the true explanation of the pretended vigor which has suddenly been aroused after a long sleep of culpable neglect, and when it could no longer be postponed. The present noise in the District Attorney's office will soon cease, and nobody will be harmed by it.

That office has long been known as shelter for Rings, because the District Attorney has been the associate, the friend, and the protector of nearly all the chiefs who have flourished at the capital, from Boss Shepherd down to Brady. The Attorney-tieneral took the Star route cases out of his hands absolutely, from positive distrust of his ability and of his fidelity. And yet he has allowed him, under sinister influences, to continue to hold this respon sible office, with a full knowledge that he is

incompetent to discharge its proper duties, The Pension Ring could have been broken up long ago had there been the least desire to prosecute the thieves composing it with carnest purpose to convict them, and to de- fresh military outbreak with as much energy | choking up the beds of streams below

stroy their capacity for evil. Now that they have grown rich, and have made alliances for protection, there is little probability that any of the foremost of the will get what they deserve from the law. A few scapegoats may be punished for the crimes of their employers, whose money will save them from the penitentlary. The farce now playing before the public will end when that act of it is performed, and the Pension Ring will go on as it has done until a change of Administration shall purify the official atmosphere, and turn the rascals out.

President Making in Congress.

The Democrats have a large majority in the House of Representatives, almost equal in numbers to the whole force of the Senate. It has long been the practice to spend a good share of the session immediately previous to the Presidential election in the work of President making. The surest way for the Democrats in the present Congress to help in this matter is to attend strictly to their own business and to accomplish some important reforms.

For instance, the people want the appropriations of the public money reduced to the lowest feasible figures. The service will not suffer, but, on the contrary, will be improved by a thorough reformation in this particular, The Democrats in the House have complete control of this question, and by rigid economy they can save to the people more than a hundred millions of dollars in the next fiscal year. Having the power to do this, they will be held responsible if they neglect their duty.

The number of Federal officers in the country is far in excess of the public needs. Every branch of the service abounds in sinecurists and deadheads, who are of no manner of use except to draw their salaries and increase taxation. Thousands of them ought to be dispensed with. The Democrats in the House cannot of themselves accomplish this reform, but they can take the initial step in that direction, and throw upon the Republican Senate the responsibility of arresting it

By instituting reforms of this kind, the Democrats in Congress can render great aid in making the next President.

Unsettled Spain.

Notwithstanding some renewed omens of outbreak on the part of Spanish Republicans, we may probably take for granted that the POSADA-HERRERA Ministry, which took office on the return of King Alponso from his untoward visit to Paris, will remain unshaken during the short remainder of the Parlinmentary recess. Whether it can long sursive, however, the reassembling of the Cortes is very doubtful, for the instant it attempts to frame a legislative programme it will flud Itself in a far more delicate and embarrassing position than that of the perplexed Sagasta Cabinet, which it succeeded. In Madrid itself Spanish polities may well

se watched with speechless bewilderment and fatalistic resignation, for it is there emphatically true that the unexpected happens. That the Sagasra Ministry should have managed to retain power for upward of two years was regarded as a kind of miraele, but it would have seemed some months ago far more incredible that they would be superseded by the so-called Dynastic Demperats, a faction sprung from the intrigues of the old Marshal SERRANO with those among the advanced Radicals who are willing to accept the monarchy on certain exactng terms. If Sagasta went out, it was naturally assumed by those who credit the dynasty with perception of its own interests that CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO would come in. Few men, indeed, would have predicted in December, 1874, that a Ministry which included the Kingmaker. Marshal Campos, would one day be discarded in favor of the friends of SERRANO, who took so large a share in the expulsion of Queen ISABELLA II., and from whom CAMPOS had to wrest his usurped dictatorship in order to make room for Alponso XII. Yet on the face of things this is precisely what has occurred. Half the seats in the present Cabinet are occupied by SERRANO'S new coadjutors, the resolute though not wholly uncom-MARTOS and Schor Morer; while the Mar-

shal-Duke himself is to fill the difficult and

important post of Ambassador to France. That the actual Ministry, however, is only stop gap seems evident from the fact that it cannot command a majority of the Cortes without repudiating to a considerable extent is only by purchasing Sagasta's good will, or tolerance, with half the Cubinet offices that it secures even a nominal and momentary preponderance in the popular branch of the Legislature. The Dynastic Democrats would instantly be deserted by the Moderates and left in a helpless minority, should they announce an intention of carrying out the purpose for which their party was professedly founded, to wit, the complete reëstablishment of the singularly liberal Constitution of 1869. They have waived accordingly a large part of their demands, but in order to retain their own adherents and parry the charge of treachery, which would in any case be brought against them by inflexible Republicans of the ZORILLA stamp, they are forced to insist upon restoring the fundamental feature of the AMA-DEO régime, namely, universal suffrage. But inasmuch as this concession would eventually involve all the rest, not only the Conservatives, but many of the Moderates, will oppose it hotly, and it is believed that they will be able to persuade AL-Ponso XII. that the removal of all restrictions on the parliamentary franchise would be fatal to the stability of his dynasty. Should this belief be well founded, the defeat of the new Ministers in the Cortes would not

be followed by a dissolution of that body, but by their own resignation. What is thought of universal suffrage in the court circles of Berlin the young Spanish sovereign will have an opportunity of learning from his expected guest, the Crown Prince. The promptness with which the compliment implied in Alponso's visit to Germany is returned, will prove grateful to Castilian pride after the Paris incident, and it shows that BISMARCK does not mean to lose all the ground gained for his projects by the uncivil behavior of President Grévy's son-in-law, and of Gen. THIBAUDIN, the Minister of War. Few things indeed, could be more ill timed and awkward for the Dynastic Democrats than the appearance in Spain at this junc ture of the helr to the German empire. If their representatives in the present coalition Cabinet are not most cordial in their welcome they will rulu themselves at court, while, on the other hand, effusive demonstrations upon their part may arouse suspicion and resentment among their radical followers, who are at no pains to hide their sympathy for the French republic.

To complicate still further the political situation, the inveterate fomenter of revolutions, ZORILLA, refuses to treat seriously the plans of the Dynastic Democrats, pronounces their position entirely untenable, and is now pushing his machinations for a

as if the reactimists under CANOVAS DEL CASTILLY and already returned to power. widently Zorikla thinks that if the Cortes is dissolved, the next general election will be managed, not by the present coalition of Radicals and Moderates, but by a thoroughgoing Conservative Cabinet On one point, at least, he and CANOVAS are agreed, viz., that any lasting compromise between monarchical and demoeratie principles is impracticable in Spain Absolutism the one believes is possible, and to the other a republic seems worth working for: but for parliamentary institutions, presided over by a constitutional sovereign and based on the habit of self-government, the Spanish people are not yet adapted in the judgment either of the Conservative leader or of the veteran revolutionist.

Arthur. It looks very much as though Gen. ARTHUR had determined to make a serious effort to become the candidate of the Republican party in 1884. He has the power of the Federal Administration to use for the purpose; and if he accomplishes his design, he will be the first President, promoted from the Vice-Presidency, in whose hands such an undertaking has proved successful.

If in 1880 Gen. ARTHUR had been nominated for President everybody would have thought the Convention had lost its senses. But things have changed very much since then. There is now no great champion of the

Republican party who can desire the Presidential nomination except Mr. BLAINE. JOHN SHERMAN does not want it, and could not get it if he did. Mr. CONKLING, ablest and shrewdest of them all, is in this town making his fortune as a mwyer. Mr. En-MUNDS refuses and will refuse; and of all the second and third rate men, there is not one who can stretch out his hand and take possession of the prize.

Why, then, should Gen. ARTHUR be back ward in coming forward? We do not believe he will succeed, yet we shall be glad to see him made the candidate. Personally he is a respectable man, while his toleration of 'soap" identities him with all the rottenness of the Government.

The Republican party ought to go.

Forests and Freshets.

The Evening Post of Albany, commenting upon the ground taken by THE SUN in the Adirondack question, reiterates its arguments in favor of the destruction of the forests of northern New York, enforcing its ideas by the following statement:

"Tox Sex quotes the opposite and theories of various uropean engineers. No amount of theory can over on a fact. No amount of theory can make ground ulty enturated with water hold a gallon more. "Forest envered lands are meanly always fully saturated with water. What is the consequence? Every time a great rath visits such lands the outcome must be a very endden med a very great freshet. Hence the mercious floods which visited Troy and Albany twents five years ugo, hefore the Advendacts experienced the whele-more influences of forest fires and lum

nt's the Adjuminact ration one of those places? The resheld of 18.7 and 180 say that it is use. The Systems on the that if the Adjuminacks are rapped of their trees, great damage will be done to the North Woods, the Adicandacks would soon become as great a sheep-growing country as Vermont or Col

Recorded observations on the influence of forests upon the flow of streams are not yet very numerous in the United States. In a country in which the proportion of forest to cleared land has until recently been unneces sarily large, the attention of scientific men has naturally not been directed to investigation of this character. For this reason we are obliged to have recourse to the teachings of European investigators. The hydrographic influences of the forest are practically the same in the United States and in Europe. A larger rainfall or a soil more liable to erosion may make the dangers of forest destruction greater in one region than in another. It is a difference of degree, how ever, or rather of rapidity of consummation; the final result must always be the same.

For this reason we have called attention to the work of European experts on this subject. It is fortunate for America that we can learn from European experience that too great interference with the covering of the earth's surface will always be followed by great calamities. It is a lesson that Europe has learned at a cost of millions of treasure and thousands of human lives. Two courses the platform of the Dynastic Democrats. It are presented to our choice. We can take advantage of the dearly bought experience of older countries, and check improper fores destruction now while it is still practicable to do so: or we can drift along in the belief that a special Providence will guard us from ovils which have for centuries been gradually making other countries uninhabitable. When It has been demonstrated to the American people that nature works always upon the same plan, and with entire impartiality, we shall be forced to turn to the same ineffectua methods to restore that which we are now destroying, which have been unsuccessfully tried in other countries. If the aphorism that prevention is better than cure was ever applicable, it is to the management of the

forests and streams of this country. The value of forest-covered land lies in the fact, as the Post points out, that it is nearly always saturated with water. This is because the ground in dense forests is rarely frozen more than a few inches below the surface. This is due to two causes: the higher winter temperature maintained in the forest by the mechanical protection it affords against wind and cold; and the fact that the snow in the forest is not blown into drifts, but protects evenly the whole surface of the ground. The snows in contact with the warmer soil, gradually melt throughout the winter, and, percolating through the conting of leaves and vegetable mould, reach the substratum of soil, and flil the subterranean water passages and springs, which gradually give off their surplus to the small streams and lakes that are found in all dense forest regions. When the forest is removed, the ground in this part of the country is often frozen several feet deep before it is covered with snow in the autumn; or the snow is blown into drifts, leaving considerable areas exposed throughout the winter to the action of frost. In either case, the snow does not melt gradually and percolate through the ground. It melts suddenly with the warm rains of early spring, rushes over the surface of the frozen ground to the nearest stream, and is wasted so far as any benefit to the soil is concerned. The ground in the forest is saturated because it has been gradually absorbing moisture during the whole winter; the ground outside forest is not saturated, because the surface is scaled by frost and is incapable of receiving any moisture at that season of the year when dangerous freshets are developed. The danger which results from the removal of the forest from steep mountain slopes, like those in the heart of the Adirondack region, is much greater than that which follows its destruction upon more level ground, because water pouring down exposed slopes gathers so much momentum that it carries down soil and rock,

removing the possibility, through the destruction of plant food, of a new growth of forest replacing the one which had been de

stroyed. The Beening Post must be congratulated upon the service it is rendering the cause of forest preservation, and we shall be glad to reproduce as many arguments in characer and intelligence like the article which we quote to-day, as it will furnish us with. If anything is needed to convince the people of this State that the preservation of the Adirondack forest is essential, our Albany contemporary will supply the want if it will only keep on in the line of argument it has adopted.

Esteemed Republican contemporaries that have rejoiced over the downfall of Mr. MAHONE. under the supposition that this fine Virginia gentleman would never rise again, may find they have fired prematurely. It is now announced that Mr. MAHONE will give up the Repudiation business for the present and will head the Virginia Republican delegation in the next national Convention. And what will our contemporaries do then, poor things?

The Philadelphia steamer Ethel, which was sold to the Haytian Government as a war vessel, and which, according to a wonderful story published at her departure, was long ago to have been blown up by a clockwork infernal machine, painted to resemble a lump of coal in her bunkers, was at the latest accounts entirely safe at Port au Prince. Her contractors seem money than of being blown up, since on arriving they refused to change the American flag to the Haytian, and her name to the Dessalines until she should be fully paid for. Was there ever any foundation for the story of the infernai machine to be used by the insurgents against the Dessattnes?

While Monsigner CAPEL was finding some Hitle fault with MARTIN LUTHER in Cincinnati last Sunday, the Rev. Dr. BRANN was finding a good deal more in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Agnes in this city. Some of the statements made by Dr. BRANN were full of interest for the curious. Among other things, in speaking of the general worthlessness of the German princes who supported LUTHER, Dr. BRANN sald that the Elector John of Saxony was glutton of such violently unrestrained habits that he was obliged to wear an iron band about his person just below his ribs in order to prevent himself from bursting. This yarn is so nearly identical with one related by the Brothers GRIMM, under the title of "The Faithful Heinrich," that we are at a loss to know whether the from the tale that Dr. BRANN tells, or whether Dr. Brann has modified his from the famous narrative of the Brothers GRIMM. The only lifference in the two narratives is that there were three iron bands in the case of the faith ful Heinrich, and that they were placed higher up, the heart instead of the stomach of Heinrich being the organ that called for this unusual and streamous precaution. The Brothers GRIMM tell us that the faithful Heinrich's bands vere effective in preventing his heart from bursting with sorrow for the loss of his master. who had been changed into a frog by a fairy, but that the joyous emotions of Heinrich's heart snapped the bands like pack thread when his master was restored. As to the Elector John's band, Dr. Brann does not tell us whether he burst it or not. If he did not, he certain! was not so reprehensible a giutton as he would have been if he had burst it; and if he did, we do not wonder that he should have attracted the notice of any contemporary.

It is settled at last. The Aldermen have leclared that the dummy locomotives of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad must not be run in the city streets at a rate exceeding six miles an hour. But who is going to be timekeeper?

The annual convention of the National Cotton Planters' Association, which is to be held in Vicksburg next week, ought to prove of unusual interest. It will doubtless have some thing to say in regard to the great Centennial Cotton Fair of next year. It will probably consider jute machines, under Mr. WEST's prize offer of \$5,600 to inventors, to be awarded at the coming meeting. It will also have on exhibition the first bale of cotton ever picked from the field by machinery. This bale, when shown in Charleston recently, was pronounced to be not distinguishable from a bale of handpicked cotton. Should the use of machinery for this purpose become general, its influence

It will add to the grief of the disappointed candidates for Aldermen to read the descriptions of the gorgeous chamber in which the new Board is to sit. An evening journal thus

pictures the room: "The ceiling is freecoed in light lavender and gold and the windows are hung with brown damask lambre-quins. Over the President's chair, which is of solid oak. nibosed with the city's coat of arms, is a canopy of purple and gold damask. The chairs and desks of the members are of mahegany. Depending from the ceiling are two large cut-glass chandeliers."

There is something suggestive of both royalty and extravagance in the picture, but, then, the economical taxpayer should remember that many of the new Aldermen are pro prietors of the most palatial and methetic establishments licensed by our Excise Com missioners, and cannot get along with the plain surroundings of common folk. Mahogany and damask and cut glass have become a neces sary part of their surroundings.

A Good Man for President. From the Otean Democrat.

William Steele Holman is a native of Indiana. He was born at a pioneer homestead called Vereastan, shout thirty miles west of Cincinnati, Sept. 8, 1822. Here his father, Jesse L. Holman, a native of Kaniucky, and a law student under Heary Clay, had settled in 1810. He obtained the benefits of a common school education in the schools of his neighborhood and studied at Franklin College for two years. He be gan teaching school, out the early death of his father compelled an abandomment of some of his projects for his education. Before he was 21, young Helman married Miss Abigail Kunpp, a young lady of education and refinement. He studied law, was admitted to the bar when he became of age, and in the same year (1843) was chosen Prosecuting Attorney, and in 1850 he was elected the Senatorial delegate from Dearborn country to the Constitutional Convention. In 1851 he was elected to the House of Representatives of Indiana, the first Legislature elected under the new Constitution 852 he was elected Common Piers Judge. In 1850 to was elected to the United States House of Repesentatives from the Fourth district, and entered the hirty-sixth Congress. He introduced in the House on bee. 16, 1860, the resolution condemning the doctrin of secession and deciaring it the duty of the Federal invernment to maintain the Union of the States by the imployment of all its powers—the first introduced in either House. He was restented to the Thirty-seventh Congress in 1863, to the Thirty-eighth Congress in 1862, and to the Fortieth Congress in 1866, for the same district. Under the redistricting of the State in 1887-58 he was elected to the Forty-first Congress from the Third district and reelected to the Forty-second and Forty third Congresses in 1870 and 1872; and under the redistricting of the State in 1872-73 he was chosen to the Forty fourth Congress from the Fifth district of the State in 1874. During the war Mr. Helman was classed as a Union Democrat. He supported the war measure of Mr. Lincoln's Administration and all the appropriation made for the conduct of the war. He carnestly opposed he subsidy system from the public resources, either in bonds, lands, or money, to promote private enterprises He was an earnest advocate of the homestead policy and was opposed to any other method of dispensing o the public lands except as bounties to the soldiers of the Union army. It is claimed by Mr. Holman's friends that the series of resolutions on the subject of subsidies which he succeeded in having carried through the House broke down the system for a time at least. He opposed all forms of class legislation. He introduced and carried through the measures which relieved the commerce of the obio River from the oppressive tax-ation imposed at the Louisville and Portland Canal. Mr. Holman has larely been actively engaged in the practice his profession, and tives at the old homestead on the

be an an an an arms of the bear of the banks of the Ohio liver.

Mr. Hohman has been mentioned as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, the chief arguments in his support being the wigor with which he has opposed all jobs and the success that has attended

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 .- The natural tensency of the bureau chief to magnify his office, and to look with alarm on any measure of economy that threatens to contract its functions, is visible in the current reports of several of Mr. Chandler's subordinates. Yet the real lesson of these documents is that the recent endeavors to prune the navy of its superfluous yards and stations and its superfluous officers should

be carried on still further. Bear Admiral Nichols, for example, the Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, complains of the reduced appropriations which were made last year for his bureau:

The reduction of the appropriation for repairs and The reduction of the appropriation for repairs and preservation was not an economical measure, as for the past two or three years the appropriation has not been sufficient to properly ears for and keep in repair the property to which it pertains; consequently deterioration is constantly progressing, until eventually rebuilding, instead of repairing, will be in order.

The proper response is that the cheapest plan would be to sell off at once some of the unneeded yards, with their contents. The report which Commodore Luce recently made to the Secretary shows that there are several such yards and stations. The valuable buildings and machinery should be disposed of for the express purpose of avoiding large annual ex-penditures for keeping them in repair. With a navy like ours, much of this apparatus is now superfluous; and before the yards which are already closed shall be reoccupied, if they ever should be reoccupied, their fixtures, which now cost so much to care for, will be antiquated. and will have to be superseded by improved appliances.

A giance at the estimates made by the Bureau of Yards for the next fiscal year is instructive. First, they include a general item for the maintenance of yards and stations, \$420,000. Then come particular items for particular yards— \$331,000 for Brooklyn, \$625,000 for Norfolk. \$606,000 for Mare Island, and so on. Next ome separate estimates for civil establishments at the yards, which, by the way, are \$20,000 more than the present expenses. Finally comes another general item for repairs and preservation of the yards and stations, \$400,000, besides one for the Naval Asylum. \$92,251. The aggregate, therefore, foots up \$3,166,631; and this, be it understood, is distinct from the appropriations made to the Bureau of Construction and Repair for the vessels of the navy. So far, then, no gain of consequence is proposed as a result of the closing of certain yards.

The Chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, also, does not furnish bright pros-pects of economy. He has expended \$549,253 for labor and material during the past fiscal ear, and \$346,553 for coal. For the next year he asks \$896,000, while an appropriation of \$113,000 is desired for equipping the monitors, the new cruisers, and the despatch boat. An outlook by no means promising is revealed in this announcement:

The training ships are reported to be in a very had con-dition, notwithstanding the occutiv repairs made to them from time to time. The Bureau recommends the con-gruenting of two new wooden versels of take tone each, in our navy yards, for this service.

The Bureau of Steam Engineering has exconded \$1,142,035 during the fiscal year. Commodore Sicard, of the Bureau of Ordnance comes forward with estimates in his specialty for the next fiscal year, amounting to \$2,710,671 this great amount being chiefly due to the fact that over a million and a half will be required for the battery outlits of the monitors and the steel cruisers, and nearly a half million for material, labor, and so on. And while these new expenses are coming on, the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and

Repair warns us that the present vessels are fast dropping to pieces. Congress last winter, in despair at the vast amounts expended on these relies, forbade repairing any wooden ship, unless it would cost not more than one-fifth of her appraised value. The Alaska, Monongahela, Plymouth, and Ticonderoga promptly dropped out under this law, although all except the Alaska, says the Bureau, regretfully, "were worth repairing," The Richmond and Pensacola will go next, while the Tennessee will only last twelve months and the Minnesota eighteen. The training vessels Saratoga, Portsmouth, and Jamestown will speedily follow. In consternation to find so much of its occupation gone and going, the Bureau of Construction asks Congress to allow repairs costing one-third of the value, instead of one-flith, to be put on a vessel.

To complete the story, even Col, McCawley the Commandant of the Marine Corps, wants more enlisted men. He already has 1.887, of whom over a thousand are on duty in this country at shore stations; nevertheless "great inconvenience is felt," his report assures us because there are no more.

A Home for Incurable Invalids in Washing

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: While recently in the city of Washington my attention was drawn to the need of some sort of place of refuge for ersons who are unfortunately afflicted with for which there is no possible cure, and I was told there are cases without number of this character within a tone's throw of the national Treasury, where are stored

millions of dollars extorted from the people by the faisest of all doctrines of sound statemanship.

Perhaps no city in the Union has fewer charitable institutions than the city of Washington. While millions of dollars are annually squandered upon the frivolities and the luxuries of life, the poor, the blind, and the halt are left to the cold charity of fate. In the st life of the national capital men have no time, or take ione, to minister to the necessities of the needy and helpless; they have no time, no pause in their pursuit of gain, to think of helpless women, broken men, and hun-gry children of loyal parents. Washington is the pecuar abode of seifishness, narrowness, and dishonest;

hence charity, philanthropy, is withered up in its vitiated atmosphere. While in Washington I received a note from a lady (I ras ignorant of her sex until I saw her), asking me to call and see her on important business. In a small house on B street I found the number given (108). On the first floor, in the back room, I found Miss Rehecon. yons lying upon a small cot, bolstered up with pillows reading the morning papers. She possessed a most in elligent countenance, and I soon found that she was Washington, I judged her to be about so or 50 years of age. She was born in Pennsylvania. She went to Washington during President Buchania. time, and was appointed to a cierkship under his admin-istration. The Secretary of the Treasury at that time was bitterly opposed to the employment of women in the lovernment service, and huddled them together on the ground floor of the Treasury, where it was very damp and co.d. It was here that Miss Lyons contracted a co.d. which eventually developed into chronic rheumatism which has confined her to her room and bed the greater

part of the last twenty years. When the war of the rebellion broke out, one of the sequently was severely wounded. The devoted sister. who was intensely loval, secured a leave of absence an went to care for her wounded soldier brother. She ex-perienced many viciseitudes in the Confederate lines, not the least among them cruel exposure to most inclement weather. When she returned to her duties is the Transury Department her complaint was much argravated. Soon after the close of the war she was compelled to resign her clerkship and to fall back upon her awn meager resources. She has had a hard struggle to keep the wolf from the door. She told me that now

ditutions in Washington, but none of them was prepared to give treatment and care to such hopoless cases hers. She had knecked at all the doors but none them opened to her. She spoke with sadness and somewhat of bitterness of the animus that governs the Home for Invalid and Aged Females provided by the munifi cence of Mr. W. W. Corcoran. None but Southern wo rould gain admittance to that institution; women of the North or Northern parentiage would not be admitted there. Pray what sort of charity is that which draws the time of North and South against helpless founds in addit.

the time of North and Bouth against helpless female in all a like would before there are cases without number a like a like we said before there are cases without number in Washington of persons who are domined to elemnal earthly torture of chronic discusses who that a provision whatever made for them. It would be a provision whatever made for them. It would be a provision et of language and Christian forethought to the public spirited men and women of the country to start subscriptions for the purpose of establishing the necessary places of refine. The amount would not the long in coming in I trust fair sea (which shines for all, the rich, the poor, the finnd and the half and the other able piers of the country will take the matter up and agitate it as a highly and sincessful issue. It would not require it to a highly and sincessful issue. It would not require for all them. Shall it be established. Say Yosa, Nov. 8.

Mexico and Her English Bondholders. CITY OF MEXICO. Nov. 12.-The Mexican Gov. rament definitely refuses the demands of the andholders to issue £20,000,000 three per cent, bonds in bondholders to leave the debt of \$80,000,000. This de-cision ends the negotiations and the Maximan represen-tative in London with he recalled the Advances Govern-ment desires a settlement, but considers the bondholders.

OUR COSTLY AND CRUMBLING MAYY. REPAIRING A SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

From the Pittsburgh Telegraph.

Time's Envages with the Wires of

Time's Eavages with the Wires of Big Cables—Bangerous Corresion.

Prom the Pittaburgh Telegraph.

The suspension bridge, that link between the sister cities which is travelled by hundreds of thousands of people weekly, has been in a state of commotion, owing to the repairs being made upon it. The work on the bridge is under the eare of Mr. F. Collingwood, an old and experienced engineer, sent out by Col. Roebling, who built the bridge and is a large stockholder in it. It has been twenty-lour years since the bridge was built, and is all that time the moorings of the cables have not been repaired to any extent. Col. Roebling thought it would be well to examine the wires and see what condition they were in, and it is well that such scrutiny took place, for the bridge was in danger of being ruined by the sagging and even by the breaking of the cables. The large cables, which are 74 inches in diameter, were closely surrounded at the moorings on each end by masonry which was concreted closely around the wires. Before the cables were so surrounded they were covered with a preparation of boiled in. Tarwas once supposed to be an admirable protector of iron, but this belief was exploded long ago, and the result in the present case illustrates how injurious it is. The tar gradually, through atmospheric influences, changed into tar water, and this water was rapidly fuining the wire. The water contained chloride, carbonate, and other salts of ammonia, which ate the Iron. Some pieces of wire were dotted with little holes like small-pox pits, where the rust had grawed wave the material, and when the wires were uncovered and a strain put upon them they snapped like straws. Although each of the eighth-of-an-inch wires should stand a strain of over 1.20 pounds, thuy broke at 200.

As soon as this state of affairs was discovered Mr. Collingwood began to scrape the tar off and earfully overhaul cach eathe. Whenever a defective piece was found it was ent out and a new pieces spliced in. The splicing was in putting the masonry aroun

Forests and Rivers in Pennsylvania From the Philadelphia Press.

New York city is waking up to the serious anger which threatens the State and city if the forests at the headwaters of the Hudson are cut away. The are fast disappearing, and the large tract which stretches from Lake George west is too sterile, if it loses its im-ber, to become much else than desert. Such a desert will turn the Hudson into a shallow stream, and rob New York State of a priceless pleasure ground. Phila-delphia has no one forest region whose destruction would be so irreparable a disaster to its pleasure and prosperity; but this State is neglecting opportunities which will be prized only when it is too late m not tak ing steps to preserve large wooded tracts in Pike and Wayne and the counties westward along the northern tier to the head of the Alleghany, and in the extrem

southwest about the Monongainela.

The history of this State is the history of the growth of population and the planting of cities along our river valleys. The Delaware and Schuylkill, the Susquehanna. the Alleghany, and the Monongahela are streams vital to the prosperity of this State. They still play no small share in its trade and navigation, but they fill a more important part in supplying; its great urban population with water, in watering the land and rendering it fruitful, in moderating and moistening the climate, in leasening the heat of the summer and modifying the rigors of win-ter. Year by year sees them shrink, their spring floods grow more destructive, and their summer shallows are overed by less water as the stretches of spongy wo land which hold the snows of winter and attract the rains of warmer months disappear beneath the axe. Philadelphia to-day could make no better investment han to purchase great tracts of cheap land about the headwaters of the Delaware for the protection of its future water supply and its navigable river front. It is robably idle to urge this far-sighted policy, but the state at large, with its debt disappearing and its taxes growing lighter, ought to begin the protection of its great water courses. Only one of them enters its ter-ritory a considerable stream, the Susquehanna; the others rise within its limits or owe their volume to affigents within its boundaries. The future of all these rivers ! within State control and depends upon the care given by

No Release of Professional Criminals, To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: After person is known and has been proved to be a criming y profession, having been convicted and sentence hree times in succession to a State prison or penite lary, is there any occasion for a display of elemency in rent of a future conviction? Would not the best way of disposing of such incorrigible characters be t

abridge their freedom for the remainder of their lives, with the time put in at some employment that would be profitable to the State? Right here in the city of New York, sandwiched between respectable, hard working people, there are sores of regues who never have carned an honest dollar; and, in addition to this, are tide loafers, using their wits to ontrive villatnous plans whereby they may steal th earnings of the business portion of the community. A person travelling through this city, from Harlem to the Battery, as the writer has occasion to do in his business. has a daily opportunity of gazing on the features of

has a daily opportunity of gazing on the features of these biots on a decent community, and also of seeing some of their misdeeds that do not reach the public through the medium of the newspapers.

A walk on the Eleventh avenue among the roughs and toughs that watch their chance to robe a freight car or steal a workingman's Saturday night's wazes, provided he is so unfortunate as to yield to the influence of a few drinks, and thence to Broadway or the Sixth avenue from Thirty-afth street to Union square, where the higher grade, and consequently more dangerous class consisting of burgiars, bunco men, pickpuckets, and gamblers exhibit their stylish clothes and stroke their moustaches with soft hands: through the promiseuous Howery, where a crowd of crooks are to be found lying in wait for a victim to drug and rob; to the docks, where the practice prevails of robbing the belated man and throwing him everhoard, to be subsequently found and recognized by his friends as a corpse on a sish at the corpute, will convince any sensible man who is well as the content of the country of the country reducing the state, that the currect way of permanently reducing the state, that the currect way of permanently reducing the terranks of the rogues would be to lock their up for life.

A Care for Writer's Cramp.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Recently you have published several articles from parties regard-ing "writers' cramp," they asking if there is no remedy for it. I answer emphatically, Yes.

I have been an "office man" nearly all my life, begin

ning in New York, and am now 02 years of age and still. Those who suffer from comments of age and still. Those who suffer from cramp may be pretty cerain that it is their own fault.

tain that it is their own fault.

More than thirty years ago, while employed in a large concern in New Orieans, I suffered seriously from this complaint. Then I held my pen according to the rule of the teachers, writing with the free motion of my first the teachers writing with the free motion of my first and ascond fingers with my thumb supporting the pen hearly at the accord joint of the first finger, and the point of my little flee streng lightly on the paper—all exceedingly proper and arranged fightly on the paper—all exceedingly proper and arranged for the first paper with one my summess or get relief, and I becker had to give up my tousiness or get relief, and I becker had to give up my tousiness or get relief, and I becker had to give with my fingers, with my fingers, with my fingers with my fingers, and almost in a bunch-marked or the free use of my arm, instead of my fingers alone. In a short time the result was I improved in my writing and became more rapid, and never suffered afterward.

writing and became more rapid, and after some afterward.

Any young man can do this if he will. After some practice he will find that his old hatti was not the easiest and most natural for him; for whichever way you may hold a pen and write the easiest, rapidest, and the heat, that in my option is the true method of penmanship, and the only remedy for writers' cramp.

Hocaront, Trans. Nov. 2

The Owls of Brooklyn. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ser: Your little

article of to day, in reference to the possibility of "Non-Partisan Home Rule for Municipalities" meets my views to a dot. And I suggest that those Democrats of Brooklyn who voted for the non-partian Mayor shall be hereafter designated "The Owls"—a bird which is unable to
see in the daytine, and, consequently, easily captured,
I venture to say this bears the next year rolls around
they will admit that there the next year rolls around
they will admit that they shall not the unine of their
candidate supplies the exact nonenclature by which to
distinguish their species. Yours,

New York, Nov. 11.

The Veterans of 1812,

To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: How can we account for the extraordinary longevity of the war-nors of the war of 1812 as compared with the rapid taking off of the prominent figures in our late little aking off of the prominent figures in our late little rouble! The war with direct Hritain ended extremite recurs ago, which would make then Atram Daily ound the voterane. Rifeen years of age as the close of the war, and the age of the oldest voteran mentioned as present at their meeting a few days ago as nincless years. If these ages and figures be correct, it is possible that many these ages and figures be correct, it is possible that many to refer the present of the great rebellion will be on hand in 1935 to legit their battles over again and sound the praises of their great commanders.

BUNBEAMS.

-Some medical journals have announced

the formation of the Drake Medical Society in Cincin-nati, under the head line "More Quackery." -The Denver Medical Times says that there

are more physicians in that city, in proportion to the population, than in any other in the United States. -Experts in chemistry have estimated that the cost of London's winter smoke and fog is \$25 (co)ord annually; that is to say constituents of cost to this value escape unconsumed, and asset in furning the BOOLY VAPOR.

-A recent French law makes revaceination incumbent upon every student received has the lyce-ums and colleges. Since the experiment was made at the Lycie Louis le-Grand not a single case of various or variofold has appeared.

-Dr. Ladell has discovered that prussic acid is an antidote to poleoning with strychnine. Wed leal men will be cautions in usion it, however, as the prussic sold, to be of any use, must be given in does which would be fatal under any other circumstances.

-The British Consul at Bordeaux, in his last report, states that "low-priced genoine Bordeaux wines must be regarded as non-existing." The common est Medoc wines (rin ordinates) have increased 75 to 100 per cent, during the last decade. The se-catled Bordeaux wines are now much adulterated, or "falsified,"

-The official returns show that the healthlest class of people in Great Britain are the inmates of prisons, where simple diet, regular hours, and exercise are compulsory. But the cases of insanity among the convicts are out of proportion to the number of other ailments. To commit a crime a man must be more or

-At a recent meeting of poorhouse guardlans, in England, the topic for discussion related to the expediency of supplying paupers with fish dinners once a week. Mrs. Charles, one of the members of the Board, insisted that fish was not fit food for paupers, because ! contained phosphorus, which, while it was excellent for brain workers, was not needed by paupers, as they did not use their brains. The measure was carried, however.

-The most profitable industry of the new Swedish colony in Arcostock county, Maine, is that of raising potatoes for the starch factories, of which there are twenty-six. The largest of these made last year 202 tons of starch from 28,000 bushels of potatoes. The pro-cess of starch making is simple, consisting merely of grinding the potatoes, washing the pulp, and settling the starch in three vats successively after it has been thoroughly washed with clean water to remove all impurities. Furnace heat is employed for drying.

-A Spanish paper, the Dia, gives details respecting the excess of officers in the Spanish army, For every two and a half men who shoulder the musket, which general term includes corporals and sergeants there is one man in the Spanish military service who does not. As regards officers alone, there is one Captain-General for every 11,003 soldiers, one Lieutenant-General for 1,013, one Major-General for 693, one Brigadier for 271, one Colonel for 195, one Lieutenant-Co one Major for 42, one Captain for 18, one Lieutenant

for 15, and an Ensign for every 6.

—A scheme for the colonization of New Guines is projected by a Mr. MacIver, who has chartered a steamer in order to leave England before Christman The prospectus of this expedition states, among other things, that "settlers intending to join the first party must contribute £100 toward the company. This subscription will include all expenses for passage money Six months' provisions will be provided, together with tents and arms for protection." Each superiber of £100 is to obtain a land warrant entitling him to a thousand acres. It is said that the expedition will land on the portheast coast of the island.

-Judges in England are proverbially long lived. Lords Brongiam, Lyndhurst, St. Leonards and Plunkett, four of the Chancellors of the last half century, passed 90, and Campbell was 82, and Chief Justice Lofroy 85; but the experience of Sheriff Barciay, who has just resigned his position as Chiof of the Court of Perth, is unique in the annals of official longwity. He was appointed in 1829, and has satcentinuously since. During this time he has cooperated with ten sheriffs, three of whom have become peers. He has seen sixteen Lord Advocates and fourteen Lord Provists, and has taken

part in twenty-one Parliamentary elections. -A possible topic at the coming session of Congress will be the Cheyenne and Arapabee Indiana lease of 3,117.800 acres of grazing hand at two cents an acre. The syndicate which got the lease, which runs for ten years, have just made the second half-yearly payment, aggregating over \$11.000. Every man, woman, and child of both tribes was paid \$5, the money being in \$1 and \$2 greenbacks. The next payment will be in cattle, as the lease calls for half money and half cattle. In the Indian Territory it is believed that a number of United States Senators and members of the House of

depresentatives are indirectly interested in the lease. -The trustees of the State Normal School of New Hampshire aunounce in their amount report that while the cities and villages are gaining, the rural districts are losing population. As a result, the rural districts no longer offer a field for male teachers, and young women are employed. These, the trustees say, are not competent to teach facts. "They know something of books, but next to nothing of things, and have in most cases little claim to the quality of leadership. The trustees therefore insist that the pupils of the Hor mal School shall be kept at work upon facts until they find out how large a thing a fact is, so that they may go forth from the school to teach things first and ther forms and words. Ho it seems that the race of Grad

grinds is not extine -President Patton of Howard University writes that the recent decision of the Supreme Coart of the United States adverse to the constitutionality of the Civil Rights bill has produced excitement among tha olored people, who seem to feel that all their defer have been suddenly removed, and that hereafter they may be insuited and outraged with impunity. He sets forth, however, that the decision was by no means an expected; that it has not established any political doctrine contrary to the rights of the negroes, and that it leaves them as to legal protection just where it leaves white people. He advises them to refrain from an unwise railing at the Supreme Court, acquaint themselves with the facts and principles of the case, and stand up hopefully and courageously for their legal rights.

-In the first stages of the manufacture of wood pulp for paper, poplar was regarded as previn-nantly adapted for the purpose, and for a considerable time it was thought that only that wood, basswood, and a few other kinds could be ground into a suitable pulp.

Now, however, machines are made which turn out julp
with equal facility from all kinds of wood. The longest fibre is made from willow, basewood and poplar ranking next, respectively. Codar, fir, and hemlock are said to work about alike; maple has a fibre shorter than that f either spruce or pine, and is quite hard to wrind birch is very hard, and grinds quite short. Poptar and buckeys pulps remain white for a considerable time, other woods changing color; birch becomes put, maple turns purple, and basewood takes on a reddish hue.

-Of the burlesque prima donnas of negro minstreisy, a performer is quoted as eaying: "Tom Poley, generally known until his recent death as Re-cardo, didn't have any difficulty in cultivating the falsetto votes that he used as eleverly on the stage. The trouble was all the other way. His thin, wemanish voice was natural. He had in boybood been a sopratio street in a cation for that kind of vocalism didn't leave him. That was all very well as providing a means of making an easy good living; but he was schultive about it, and would have gladly spoiled it by acquiring a masculing depth of tone. It was his constant endeaver to get rid of his falsette."

-A few days before the election, a wily nominee made a round of visits. In nearly eyers place, as related by the Batton Herald, after trealm, the by-standers and refusing to take any change on the street standers and refusing to take any change not of a fee-dollar bill, he turned the nonversation to stained since dollar bill, he turned the nonversation to state that the attempts to be unity, and pointed out expects from it might be introduced to give an air of closure to the particular premises. But I can't afford it, the trop prietor would say, or something to that effect, the shall have it, and it chen't cost you heard, the water would exclaim, quite impulsively, as though expression a sudden and generous thought. Till send a most around in the morning." He kept his world in a constance, to all appearances, though not with literal estance, to all appearances, though not with literal estance. actness. The window was made gorgeous with tranactions. The window was made gorgeous and parent and varied coloring, but this was done by nasting colored paper over the panes already in, instead of introducing genuine stained glass. The jobs were polly and cheapity executed, but the latter quality was not discovered by the beneficiaries until after they had voted in payment. The windows of the saloons are described making a pedestrian feel as though passing a core sion of cathedrals.

-A protracted murder trial has just ended at Palermo, in Sicily. It is the old story of the Natio, or of a branch of it, composed of twenty six persons who, from 1872 to 1879, committed acts of murder with over feet security. The accused, twenty six in 57, wore become with the security. charged with nine cases of massacination. Five of the accured were brothers, the others were their as also and though the evidence of their guilt was as slear as and though the evidence of their guilt was as size as a new as neonday, doubts were surjetashed of their constant as so great was the support they received from persons of indusence, and so great were the hearisticm and transits of those in authority. There had hear suspicious of the existence of such an association ever since bert built was not till is? I that these suspicious were conducted by letters which were brought from New Orlean for a man called Rosario is Manifa. These letters had been written from Paiermo to Marino, the supreme chief of the assassing and they fell into the hands of Mondal. written from Falermo to Marino, the supreme chord of the assessities and they fell into the hands of Manila after Marino's death. Manila, on his return broke of all relations with the band, and resolved on assesting in the maintenance of order. A very unfavoral to relicious is expressed as to the conduct of the points, extent ites, and of the utter incapacity of those who had to administer justice. The verdict of the lury has been unfavorable to all but three of the accused, who are is off. Twelve are condemned to capital punishment (which will never be executed), one to compaleor; about (which will never be executed), one to compulsor, label for life and ten to minor punishments